

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 MCT-01 EUR-12 ACDA-07
/093 W

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R 261408Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8901
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IS, JO
SUB: WEST BANK POLITICAL VIEWS

SUMMARY: IN APRIL 25 MEETING WITH NABLUS MAYOR SHAKA', HE:
REITERATED PLO (AND ARAFAT) SPOKE FOR PALESTINIANS;
EXTOLLED "MODERATE" OUTCOME OF CAIRO PNC MEETING; EXPRESSED
WILLINGNESS HAVE WEST BANK/GAZA STATE; CRITICIZED US POLICY
AS PRO-ISRAEL AND DEFICIENT VIS-A-VIS PALESTINIAN RIGHTS,
AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AID-FUNDED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT HIS INVITATION, I CALLED ON SHAKA' AT HIS HOME
WITH POLOFF HULL FOR 90-MINUTE WIDE-RANGING TALK. SHAKA'
ASSERTED THAT PLO AND ARAFAT SPOKE FOR 99 PERCENT OF WEST
BANKERS. WHATEVER PLO DECIDED ABOUT PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA WOULD
BE ACCEPTABLE TO PALESTINIANS. SHAKA' PRAISED RESULTS OF
CAIRO PNC MEETING WHICH HE DEEMED MODERATE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE. ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY, IN SHAKA'S
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ESTIMATION, WAS THE UNITY ACHIEVED AND THE CLEARLY
STATED ACCEPTANCE OF WEST BANK/GAZA STATE.

2. SHAKA' EXPRESSED AN EAGERNESS TO HAVE WEST BANK/
GAZA STATE IN ORDER TO EXPRESS PALESTINIAN NATIONAL
IDENTITY. WHEN PRESSED WHETHER SUCH AN ENTITY WOULD
RESULT IN GENUINE PEACE, SHAKA' ASSERTED IT WOULD

SOLVE 85 PERCENT OF THE PROBLEM AND REMAININ 15 PERCENT
DEPENDEN ON HOW ISRAEL IMPLEMENTED AGREEMENT.

3. SHAKA' CRITICIZED US POLICY AS HARPING ON ISRAELI
SECURITY AND DEFICIENT CONCERNING PALESTINIANS'
RIGHTS. WHEN I REHEARSED US POLICY IN FAVOR OF OVERALL
SETTLEMENT AND THREE ELEEMENTS AS CITED BY PRESIDENT
CARTER, SHAKA' SAID THIS ONLY CONFIRMED HIS IMPRESSION
THAT U.S. GAVE PRIORITY TO THE ISRAELI "OPPRESSORS",
NOT THE PALESTINIAN "OPPRESSED." HOW, HE ASKED, COULD
US SUPPORT INDEFINITELY ISRAELI OCCUPATION THEREBY
DENYING PALESTINAINS THEIR RIGHTS TO DECIDE THEIR OWN
FUTURE. I ASSURED HIM THIS WAS NOT US POLICY.

4. AS FOR A FUTURE PALESTINE LINK WITH JORDAN, SHAKA'
SAID THIS WOULD BE NATURAL BUT SHOULD BE DECIDED FREELY
BY THE PEOPLE AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN
STATE. SHAKA'A EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO RETURN TO PRE-
1967 SITUATION SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN BEDOUIN OCCUPIERS
WOULD REPLACE ISRAELIS. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD
BE "IMMORAL" SINCE IT WOULD AMOUNT TO "SELLING"
OF WEST BANK/GAZA IN HOPE OF BUYING PEACE.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REFUGEES OUTSIDE OF WEST BANK/
GAZA, SHAKA' SAID THEY SHOULD HAVE CHOICE SPECIFIED IN
UN RESOLUTIONS, I.E. RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN ISRAEL.
HOWEVER, HE GAVE IMPRESSION HE DID NOT EXPECT MANY
TO OPT TO RETURN TO ISRAEL.

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6. AT END OF CONVERSATION, SHAKA' CONFIRMED HIS
INTENTION TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA IN SEARCH OF BADLY-
NEEDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN HAVING ANERA OR OTHER VOLAG PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF MORE
PROJECTS IN NABLUS. WE AREED THAT AFTER HIS RETURN,
HE WOULD MEET WITH LOCAL ANERA REPRESENTATIVE SELZ.

7. COMMENT: SHAKA'S VIEWS DESERVE ATTENTION SINCE HE
IS THE FREELY ELECTED MAYOR OF THE WEST BANK'S LARGEST
CITY. HIS COMMENTS ON THE PLO AND THE PNC CONFIRM OUR
IMPRESSION OF THE MAINSTREAM OF WEST BANK OPINION. ALTHOUGH
UNDER GREAT PRESSURE, SHAKA' APPEARED OUTWARDLY CALM AND
SELF-POSSESSED. (NABLUS WAS STILL REVERBERATING
OVER MEIR KAHANE'S VISIT OF APRIL 17.) WHILE CRITICAL
OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF US POLICY, HE SPOKE DISPASSIONATELY
RATHER THAN IN EMOTIONAL FASHION OF MANY LEADING
PALESTINIANS. ALL IN ALL, HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE
ANTICIPATED RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ME.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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